

Abstract

This Bachelor thesis “*The problem of acquisition of state territory*” is concerned with the modes of acquisition of state territory at present and in the past. The first part of the thesis introduces the definition criteria, as is explained by the modern public international law, and makes reference to international treaties, which codified these criteria. The second part clarifies the three-dimensional scope of state territory (terrestrial space, air-space and sub-terrestrial space), as well as it outlines the classification of state territory according to their size and shape. The main part of the thesis is devoted to individual modes of territory acquisition – original (effective occupation, accession, accretion) as well as derivative (cession, prescription, adjudication, annexation). The thesis presents specific examples of every above mentioned mode. In the case of accession, it is shown on the volcanic island Sabrina in the Atlantic Ocean, dating back to 1811; accretion is described by the example of Macao in far-east Asia; cession is demonstrated by the case of Alaska, purchased by the United States from Russia in 1867. Prescription and adjudication are shown via the case of Las Palmas Island next to the Philippines archipelago. Finally, the thesis briefly mentions annexation, which is however a political tool of traditional public international law. Nevertheless, this acquisition of state territory is outlawed by modern international law.

Keywords

Acquisition of state territory, Occupation, Cession, Accretion, Accession, Prescription, Adjudication, Annexation.